



# BONHOMME RICHARD'S ALMANAC

Vol. 2, No. 6

April 24, 2000

**"I have not yet begun to fight!"**



## USS BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD 6) CHANGE OF COMMAND



*CAPTAIN DOUGLAS W. KEITH*

Capt. Douglas W. Keith will be relieved of command of USS BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD 6) by Capt. Jeff Connelly this morning. The shipboard change of command ceremony will take place on the flightdeck while the ship is anchored off Kuwait City in the Northern Arabian Gulf.

During Capt. Keith's tenure the ship was commissioned in Pensacola, Fla., sailed around South America through the Strait of Magellan, participated in exercises UNITAS '99, Kernel Blitz, Urban Warrior, Fleet Battle Experiment Echo, EXERCISE COMPTUEX 99-Y2K, the Navy's largest at sea Y2K test, and participated in Exercise Eager Mace with Kuwaiti forces. In addition, the ship began

its maiden deployment to the Western Pacific, Indian Ocean and Arabian Gulf 17 months after commissioning, nine months ahead of schedule.

During the current deployment, the ship has operated with international forces off East Timor in Operation Stabilize, and had port visits to Darwin, Australia, Singapore, Phuket, Thailand and Bahrain.

Capt. Connelly initially reported aboard as the Executive Officer. He previously filled the same capacity onboard USS ESSEX (LHD 2), a ship of the same class homeported in San Diego.

Capt. Keith will report for duty in Washington, D.C. in the near future.



*CAPTAIN ROBERT J. CONNELLY*

## NATIONAL NEWS

### SECURITY UNDER REVIEW AFTER LOSS OF WEAPONS DATA FRIDAY

*By Christopher Marquis*

The State Department is considering a reorganization of its security system after a laptop computer vanished from an intelligence office with highly sensitive files about weapons proliferation.

"The Secretary of State is furious about this incident," said an official. "I've rarely seen her as angry about anything as this case."

The FBI is leading an investigation into the disappearance of the laptop, which was reported two months ago by the department's Office of Intelligence and Research. The office is the department's main source of intelligence data and analysis.

Although investigators have not yet determined that the laptop was stolen, its theft would represent the highest possible breach of classified material, officials said. The computer contained files designated "code-level," a status beyond top secret.

### PROSECUTOR QUESTIONS MR. CLINTON

*By New York Times*

A Justice Department prosecutor investigating campaign fund-raising improprieties conducted a wide-ranging interview with President Clinton that included questions about electronic messages that were improperly handled by the White House.

The prosecutor also interviewed Vice President Al Gore, White House officials said. The campaign finance investigation grew out of questions about illegal fund-raising practices in the 1996 presidential election.

### SUSPECT LINKED TO NINE KILLINGS

*By Associated Press*

Investigators released the names of nine women whose slayings they say are definitively linked by DNA and other physical evidence to a man charged with murder in the August 1997 death of a teenage prostitute. Further tests are expected to tie the suspect, Robert Lee Yates Jr., to the slayings of three other women.

## BONHOMME RICHARD'S ALMANAC

*Capt. Douglas W. Keith, Commanding Officer*

*Lt. Cmdr. Laurie Rye, Public Affairs Officer*

*JOC (SW/AW) Stephen K. Robinson, Asst. Public Affairs Officer*

*JO1 (SW) Robert W. Garnand, Editor*

*JO3 Laura C. Wiggins, Staff Writer*

*Lt1 Jimmie Claspell, Print Shop*

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### \* MONDAY'S STIE TV SCHEDULE \*

#### CHANNEL 2

1030 ENTERTAINERS

1100 GHOST

1630 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER

1730 JEOPARDY

1800 UNDERSTANDING

1900 WALKER, TEXAS RANGER

2000 STARSHIP TROOPERS

2200 ROMEO & JULIET

#### CHANNEL 6

1030 MOESHA

1100 ANTZ

1630 SMOKE SIGNALS

1800 FULL METAL JACKET

2000 AS GOOD AS IT GETS

2200 WAG THE DOG

TV SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE  
DUE TO OPERATIONAL COMMITMENTS

# MARINES PRACTICE SHOOTING FROM HIP

*Story and photos by Cpl. William Hawkins*

When infantry Marines need rounds down range, not rifle cartridges or mortars, but artillery rounds that weigh as much as a flyweight boxer and can destroy nearly everything within 50 meters of impact, they know fire support is only a radio call away.

It's the job of the artillery battery to provide the support as quickly as possible, often under unfavorable circumstances.

The cannon cockers of S Battery, Battalion Landing Team 1/4, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) spent April 7 shooting "from the hip," in response to emergency calls for fire while traveling in convoy.

Ideally, batteries respond from deliberately occupied positions where the guns are dug in, camouflaged and arranged carefully to be safely protected and fired as accurately as possible. A hip shoot becomes necessary when units call for fire while a battery is traveling to a new location, according to Staff Sgt. David Moore, 34, Fort Hood, Texas, guns platoon commander.

There are six M 198 155mm Howitzers in S Battery, each manned by 8 to 10 Marines. In addition to the guns platoon, there is an operations platoon housing the Fire Direction Center (FDC), communications, and meteorological Marines. The maintenance platoon has motor transport mechanics and operators, armorers, ammunition technicians, and supply Marines. It takes all of these individuals working together to provide rapid response.

The Marines began practicing the hip shoot with two dry runs. The

convoy rolled across the dusty Kuwaiti desert, five-ton trucks bouncing heavily under the weight of the guns they were pulling. The battery received the call, and the executive officer sped ahead of the body to find a good location to set up the guns. Everything happened within a matter of minutes.

"Speed is of the essence. Not for us, but for the guys who called for it," said Moore. "The situation is heightened. You have somebody who is really in distress out there."

The trucks pulled their weapons into place nearly hub to hub because the Marines must rely on verbal commands during this situation. All the guns were pointed in the same direction using a rough azimuth the executive officer calculated after selecting the location to set up.

See **MARINES PRACTICE** Page 4



*Lance Cpl. Javier D. Fraga, 20, Miami, recorder, and Lance Cpl. Thomas A. Marshall, 19, Portland, Ore., dig in a M 198 155mm medium towed Howitzer April 7. The Marines are with S Battery, Battalion Landing Team 1/4, 15th MEU(SOC), who spent most of April training at Udairi Range, Kuwait.*



**MARINES PRACTICE** From Page 3

Hurrying under the commands barked by the section chiefs, the crews poured out of the trucks. Every Marine knew their job, and they hustled with and around each other to dig the weapons' spades in and sight the weapons to fire.

The dry runs went smoothly, said Moore. The Marines have 13 minutes from the moment the executive officer receives the call for fire until the first round goes down range. The battery completed the dry runs with time to spare.

Live fire was next. They set up the guns quickly and live ammunition was prepared. Carefully following the commands, the guns were sighted. Breeches were opened and rounds driven into the chamber followed by beanbag-like sacks of powder. The spotting rounds were fired, the forward observer noted the impacts, and the FDC relayed data to the Howitzers to bring them on target.

"I like to think of the (forward observer) as the eyes, the FDC as the brains, and the Howitzers as the brawn behind the beast," said Moore.

The hip shoot is not the preferred method of firing, according to Moore. The common and most effective way is the deliberate occupation, where Howitzers are set up in large W or echelon formations 50 to 100 meters apart. The fire is more accurate and movement occurs ideally only three to five times a day, leaving them more time to conceal the guns against the biggest artillery threats, counter artillery strikes and air attacks.

Physical challenges are what the gun sections must overcome during a

hip shoot. Fatigue and pressure are ever present. It is not a leisurely shoot if there is such a thing. However, it is a challenge some of the Marines seemed to enjoy.

"It was the best firing I've done so far. It was fast paced, round after round," said Pfc. Erik Quamme, 19, Reading, Calif., ground guide, powder technician and junior man on gun one. "We did awesome. Our gun was clicking."

The live fires were a success as well, in speed as well as accuracy. Moore said the first shoot damaged the target and the second shoot destroyed the next.

"It still amazes me to this day," said Moore, a 15-year veteran of the Corps, about the guns' ability to lob a one hundred pound projectile a distance of miles to destroy a target. "It's a science."



*Lance Cpl. Edwin Cotto, 20, Chicago, assistant gunner, S Battery, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), sights in a M 198 155mm medium towed Howitzer as part of a training exercise April 7 at Udairi Range, Kuwait.*

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### EAST TIMORESE COMPLAIN OVER SLOW RECOVERY, U.N. EXPERIMENT *By Seth Mydans*

People in East Timor have gotten used to the scene: a mob of unemployed young men shoving, shouting and weeping in anger outside the U.N. headquarters, held back by an impassive multinational police contingent.

"Nothing has changed!" they shouted, and their complaint has become a theme for critics as the United Nations passes the six-month mark in its first experiment in building a new nation.

Whole towns still stand burned, roofless and silent, devastated by the rampage of destruction that followed East Timor's vote last August to end 24 years of Indonesian occupation. As many as 80 percent of the 700,000 people have no jobs. Another 100,000 remain in camps across the border in West Timor, afraid to return.

Aid workers and diplomats say they fear that East Timor's discontent could open the door to trouble by the Indonesian-backed militias that crossed the border to West Timor after laying waste to the territory.

Much of this battered land remains, as officials like to say, at ground zero. There is still no working police force or justice system, no government structure, few schools, no working water or power or transportation systems, no post office, not much of an economy, and little reconstruction.

The slow pace of recovery has called into question the capacity of the United Nations to operate as the government of a nation in crisis. One predictable effect has drawn the most criticism: the creation of a giant gap in wealth that threatens to distort the economy for years.

## SPORTS

### BASEBALL SCORES:

TORONTO	8	N.Y. YANKEES	2
CHI. WHITE SOX	14	DETROIT	6
BALTIMORE	4	OAKLAND	3
SEATTLE	4	KANSAS CITY	2
TAMPA BAY	11	ANAHEIM	9
TEXAS	8	MINNESOTA	3
ATLANTA	4	PITTSBURGH	2
MILWAUKEE	7	MONTREAL	3
LOS ANGELES	16	CINCINNATI	2
SAN DIEGO	8	HOUSTON	6
SAN FRANCISCO	8	ARIZONA	6
FLORIDA	4	PHILADELPHIA	2
COLORADO	7	ST. LOUIS	6
GAME ONE			
N.Y. METS	8	CHI. CUBS	3
GAME TWO			
N.Y. METS	7	CHI. CUBS	6

### BASKETBALL SCORES:

MIAMI	95	DETROIT	85
UTAH	104	SEATTLE	93
PHOENIX	72	SAN ANTONIO	70
PHILADELPHIA	92	CHARLOTTE	82

### NHL SCORES:

TORONTO	2	OTTAWA	1
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### SUTTON MAINTAINS OVER MAGEE

*By Associated Press*

Sutton overcame his early double bogey on the fifth green to shoot an even-par 72 Saturday and remain in control heading into the final round.

"As a younger player you panic in a situation like that. I've done that before," Sutton said. "It's hard to come back from something like that as a younger player. I've learned my lesson several times, so I needed to put that to use."

1. Hal Sutton	-13
2. Andrew Magee	-10
3. Dudley Hart	-8
3. Omar Uresti	-8
5. Barry Cheesman	-7
5. Brian Henninger	-7
5. Davis Love III	-7
5. Jonathan Kaye	-7

# COMMAND FINANCIAL SPECIALIST



## Thinking of Investing?

### TIPS FOR USING THE INTERNET

The internet has provided widespread access to even the most specialized investment information, giving the small investor research and information they never before had access to. On-line trading provides instant access to accounts and near instantaneous executions of trades. In this fast-moving environment, users must exercise caution to know investment risks and guard against loss.

If you are thinking of using the internet for investment research, the National Association of Securities Dealers Regulation (NASDR) suggests these guidelines to safe surfing:\*

1. Be your own watchdog. The internet is vast, and regulator resources are limited.
2. Question all advice.
3. Always consult other resources in addition to the internet
4. Do your own homework—don't take the word of an unknown source on the internet
5. Use good judgment. If it seems too good to be true, it probably is.
6. Ask for professional help if something appears suspect. Notify regulators before you act.

If you are thinking of using the internet to conduct securities trades, the Securities Exchange Commission (SEC) offers these tips:\*

1. Before you trade, know why you are buying or selling, and the risk of your investment.
2. Set your price limits on fast-moving stocks: use limit orders to protect from fast-moving stock prices.
3. Know your options for placing a trade if you are unable to access your account online

### TIPS FOR HIRING A FINANCIAL

Be sure to comparison shop for a financial professional like you would for any other service. Financial professionals include:

- Financial Planners and Advisors (CFP)
- Insurance agents and brokers (CLU)
- Tax preparers and Enrolled Agents
- Certified Public Accountants (CPA)
- Attorneys (Tax, Estate)
- Bankers
- Real Estate Agents and Brokers

Financial professionals get paid for the variety of ways—commissions, fees, a salary, or a combination of commission and fees.

The Securities Exchange Commission suggests the following questions to ask before hiring a financial professional:\*

1. Are you licensed with the states or the SEC?
2. Do you have disciplinary problems with NASD or states?
3. How are you compensated?
4. What is your relevant experience in this profession?
5. What kind of special education or training have you received?
6. How would you describe your investment philosophy?
7. Do you understand my financial goals and risk tolerance?
8. What other clients do you have with similar goals?
9. What kind of periodic reports can I expect from you?